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FLOOR DEBATE

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you pause to think about what's going on in other areas of the country, and that you will give it some consideration. I certainly don't expect this bill to pass...this constitutional amendment to pass the floor in ten minutes. There are currently seven states that have some form of constitutional amendment similar to the one being proposed here with LR 4CA. They are Alabama, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and California. The proposals in Minnesota, 1998, and North Dakota, in 2000, all received over 75 percent of the popular vote during the election. Recently, the state of Wisconsin proposed a resolution that protected hunting and fishing in their constitution. And it passed both houses of the legislature overwhelmingly, 94 to 3 in the legislature and 30 to 1 in the senate. Their amendment will be on the ballot this April, and should pass with a strong majority. There are eight states that have introduced legislation over the past three years: Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Utah, Arizona, Georgia, Texas, and Indiana. This constitutional amendment will provide a legal framework to protect hunting and fishing rights for future generations. Though we're not being threatened directly, there are several threats in neighboring states to hunting activities. And what this amendment can do is thwart a real threat to hunting and fishing activities which would have served a useful purpose to many Nebraskans since this state was founded. The infringement on hunting rights began in California in 1990 when antihunting groups successfully rallied to eliminate the mountain lion season in that state. And you know what happened in California--too many mountain lions, and they have threatened people. And matter of fact, I think there's been several lives lost to mountain lions in California. Afterwards, these groups went to Oregon and banned mountain lion hunting there as well, and proceeded in attacking bear hunting in Colorado, Ontario, Canada, and again striking Oregon. There was a referendum in Colorado to ban bear hunting. And guess what? It overwhelmingly passed in the Denver area, and it overwhelmingly did not pass in the rural area. But the Denver area carried the day, because there was enough people in the metropolitan areas to move that on. They are still trying to fight, in Oregon and Washington, to take their rights away in those states. These victories in California should send a strong signal that we need to support our sporting heritages in